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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
15 March 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)
SUBJECT: Offshore Island Situation

Matsus

According to a 14 March MAAG report, no highway exists between Huangchi and Peichiao, on the eastern end of the Peiling Peninsula, just north of the Matsus. There are, however, many workers reported in the area and more are said to arrive every night.

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Considerable construction has been reported on the Peiling Peninsula recently

On 13 March, the Chinese Nationalist Matsu Defense Command reported that a "cruiser" estimated at 5,000 tons, escorting a "merchant ship" estimated at 7,000 tons, sailed out of the Min River estuary opposite the Matsus.

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On 12 March, three transports of 500 tons each were reported anchored in the Foochow area--these might be the ships sighted from the Matsus on 13 March.

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Quemoys

On 14 March, the Taipei press reported that the Nationalist air force had turned back a 70-vessel Communist fleet south of Amoy, which was headed toward Quemoy. The Nationalist air force claimed to have destroyed three Communist gunboats and seven armed junks. These ships were probably supply ships, as Chinese Communist junks and other vessels have been very active recently in supply runs between the mainland and Amoy Island. Yesterday's action took place near the mainland, about eight miles south of Amoy, where road construction and work on military installations is under way.

PACOM Review Completed

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Weather

Forecast for next 48 hours is partly cloudy with coastal fog patches. Visibility will be 2-5 miles. Surface winds are to be northeast 10-15 knots; seas slight.

HUNTINGTON D. SHELDON
Assistant Director,
Current Intelligence

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